Persons found guilty in connection with sanction of Fake Telephone Connections

1873. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the rules relating to allotment of out-of-turn telephone connections;

(b) the details of persons authorised to grant such connections;

(c) what is the annual discretionary quota of ministers and other persons who are empowered to grant such out of turn connections;

(d) what is the number of connections sanctioned and released from discretionary quota of Ministers of Communications and other authorised persons during the years 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 and so far in 1993;

(e) whether there have been any cases where fake sanction letters were used to procure telephone connections from discretionary quota;

(f) if so. what are the details in this regard; and

(g) what action has been taken against guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, out of turn telephone connections are sanctioned after objective assessment of the urgent and genuine needs of the prospective subscriber.

(b) The Minister for Communications, Chairman Telecom Commission, Director General, Telecom and Advisor (O) Telecom Commission are "empowered to sanction telephone connections on out of turn priority basis in the Directorate. In the Circles, the respective CGMs are empowered to sanction out of turn telephone connections in respect of MPs quota, besides sanctioning telephone connections in deserving cases in OYT-S and NOYT-SS Categories and in respect of additional telephone lines with incoming facility for public utility services/PBX and PABX/ electronic PABX in OYT General Category.

(c) There is no limit to the discretionary quota of sanctioning authorities.

(d) The number of connections sanctioned by Ministers (C), Chairman (TC), Member (S) and Advisor (O), at their discretion, for the years 1989. 1990. 1991, 1992.

1989	12685	
1990	14898	
1991	29922	
1992	25107	
1993	6978	(Upto 31-7-93).

The information regarding the telephones sanctioned on out of turn basis by CGMs is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) During the year 1991, some complaints of issue of fake sanction letters for telephone connections on out of turn priority were received. After preliminary investigation, the case was handed over to the CBI for detailed investigation as involvement of outsiders was suspected.

(g) CBI have registered cases for investigation. Searches were conducted by the CBI at residential/business premises of some suspected persons at Delhi, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Mathura, Meerut, Agra and Patiala. Some incriminating documents have been seized and 13 accused persons including 8 departmental officials have been arrested. Action against the persons involved will depend upon the results of investigation by the CBI.

Non-acceptance of Money Order of small amount by Post Offices of Hyderabad

1874. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Post offices and Sub-Post Offices in the industrial town-ships around Hyderabad are not accepting Money Orders for small amounts;